

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 05757 171719Z

70

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-13 ADP-00 AID-20 OMB-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 EB-11 M-03 A-01 SY-10

OPR-02 OC-06 PC-04 NIC-01 RSR-01 /182 W

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R 171105Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 298

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KAMPALA

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS LAGOS 5757

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, MOPS, MGAP, TZ, BY

SUBJECT: BRURUNDI-TANZANIA BORDER DISPUTE

REF: BUJUMBURA 725

1. FMG ANNOUNCED JULY 14 THAT GOWON HAD SENT URGENT
APPEAL TO NYERERE AND MICOMBERO TO EXERCISE GREATEST
CAUTION AND RESTRAINT REGARDING BORDER CONFLICT BETWEEN
BURUNDI AND TANZANIA. GOWON PARTICULARLY URGED BOTH
LEADERS NOT TO DO ANYTHING THAT WOULD HARM INTERESTS
OF AFRICA AND REMINDED THEM TO BEWARE NOT TO PLAY
INTO HAND OF AFRICA'S ENEMIES THUS DAMAGING NEW SPIRIT
OF UNITY AND BROTHERHOOD WHICH WAS DEMONSTRABLY
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PAGE 02 LAGOS 05757 171719Z

MANIFESTED AT LAST OAU SUMMIT.

2. GOWON HAS ALSO CHARGED OAU SEC GEN TO VISIT BURUNDI, TANZANIA AND RWANDA WITH VIEW CALMING TEMPERS IN AREA.

3. IN HIS MESSAGE TO NYERERE, GOWON APPEALED IN NAME OF AFRICA TO NYERERE TO DESIST FROM WHATEVER ACTION HE CONTEMPLATED WHICH COULD AGGRAVATE THE SENSITIVE RELATIONS THAT HAVE ALWAYS EXISTED BETWEEN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES WHERE THERE IS A REFUGEE PROBLEM. HE ALSO APPEALED TO NYERERE TO CONTROL THE ACTIVITIES OF BURUNDI REFUGEES ON THE BORDER AND TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO PROMOTE PEACE AND UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN BURUNDI AND TANZANIA. GOWON CONCLUDED MESSAGE BY SAYING HE WAS SENDING A DELEGATION TO BE LED BY SENIOR MEMBER OF FMG IN ORDER TO CONVEY HIS PERSONAL CONCERN TO NYERERE AND SO THAT NYERERE COULD BRIEF DELEGATION ON EXACT STATE OF AFFAIRS.

4. IN HIS MESSAGE TO MICOMBERO, GOWON SAID THAT SUBJECT TO MICOMBEROS APPROVAL AND CONVENIENCE HE WOULD SEND A DELEGATION TO BUJUMBURA WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY. A SIMILAR DELEGATION WOULD ALSO VISIT KIGALI. HE NOTED THAT DUE TO DEPLORABLE COMMUNICATION DIFFICULTIES BETWEEN BURUNDI AND NIGERIA HE HAD ONLY RECEIVED MICOMBEROS MESSAGE THAT WAS SENT A WEEK AGO JULY 13.

5. COMMENT: GOWONS DECISION TO SEND OAU SEC GEN AND FMG DELEGATION TO BURUNDI, TANZANIA AND RWANDA APPEARS TO BE ATTEMPT NOT ONLY TO CALM TENSIONS IN AREA BUT ALSO TO GET FACTS ON SITUATION. GOWON AND FMG SEEM TO LACK COMPREHENSIVE INFORMATION ON EVENTS TAKING PLACE ALONG BURUNDI/ RWANDA/TANZANIA BORDERS.

6. THERE IS NO INDICATION
GOWON HAS COMMUNICATED DIRECTLY WITH RWANDA GOVERNMENT.
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PAGE 03 LAGOS 05757 171719Z

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